

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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P 010700Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL ADANA

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 986

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

AMCONSUL IZMIR PRIORITY

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EO 11652: NA; TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: SENATE ELECTION OUTLOOK IN ADANA

1. WITH FOUR SENATE SEATS BEING CONTESTED, INCLUDING TWO NOW HELD BY THE JP. THE ADANA ELECTION IS THE MOST IMPORTANT IN THIS PART OF TURKEY. NONE OF THE ADANA SENATE CANDIDATES IS A SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL FIGURE IN HIS OWN RIGHT, NOR ARE ANY CONTROVERSIAL. THUS THE ELECTION RESULTS HERE SHOULD BE AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF THE CURRENT LOCAL STRENGTH OF EACH OF THE NATIONAL PARTIES. THE CANDIDATES THEMSELVES ARE ALREADY ACTIVE, BUT SINCE AMONG MAJOR PARTY LEADERS ONLY ERBAKAN HAS YET MADE AN ADANA APPEARANCE IT IS

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TO EARLY TO MAKE A WELL-FOUNDED JUDGEMENT AS TO THE RELATIVE POPULARITY OF THE PARTIES. NEVERTHELESS, CERTAIN TRENDS ARE ALREADY CLEAR.

2. IN OUR VIEW ONLY THE RPP AND THE JP HAVE ANY CHANCE AT WINNING SEATS HERE. THE ONLY QUESTION IS HOW THE FOUR SEATS WILL BE DIVIDED? THE LOCAL RPP ORGANIZATION SAYS THEY HAVE TWO SEATS FOR SURE (AND THEY ARE PROBABLY CORRECT), AND HAVE EXCELLENT PROSPECTS FOR OBTAINING A THIRD. THE JP, ON THE OTHER HAND, BELIEVES THEY CAN MAINTAIN THEIR TWO ADANA SEATS, BUT CONCEDE THEY HAVE LITTLE

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PROSPECT OF GAINING. THE DETERMINING FACTOR, AS WE SEE IT, WILL

BE THE DISPOSITION OF THOSE VOTES THAT WENT LAST TIME TO THE NOW
DISINTEGRATING DP AND RRP. IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT MOST FORMER
DP AND RRP VOTERS SWITCH TO THE JP, IT COULD BE IN GOOD SHAPE.

3. THE ADANA DP HAS FIELDDED A FULL SLATE OF CANDIDATES, AND IS
CAMPAIGNING IN APPARENT EARNEST, BUT THE GENERAL FEELING HERE IS
THAT THIS IS THE ORGANIZATION'S LAST CAMPAIGN AND THAT FOLLOWING
AN EMBARRASING DEFEAT MOST REMAINING ADANA DP POLITICOS WILL GO
OVER TO THE JP.

4. WELL-INFORMED SOURCES TELL US THAT THE ADANA BRANCH OF THE RRP
HAS ACCEPTED GRACEFULLY, IF NOT ENTHUSIASTICALLY, THE MARRIAGE WITH

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THE JP, BUT EXPRESS SKEPTICISM AS TO THE RRP'S ABILITY TO TAKE THEIR
FORMER VOTERS ALONG WITH THEM.

5. NO MAJOR CHANGE IS EXPECTED IN THE SHARE OF VOTES GOING TO THE
NSP AND NAP, EACH OF WHICH POLLED 8 PER CENT OF THE ADANA ELECTOR-
ATE IN THE 1973 ELECTIONS. ERBAKAN'S SOLE CAMPAIGN VISIT HERE
(ADANA 213), HOWEVER, SPARKED LITTLE ENTHUSIASM AND SOME FEEL THAT
THE MSP HAS PEAKED HERE AND MAY WELL LOSE A FEW THOUSAND VOTES TO
THE JP. THE NAP, HOWEVER, REMAINS A QUESTION MARK. IT HAS A
SUBSTANTIAL, WELL-ORGANIZED LOCAL YOUTH FOLLOWING, BUT WITHOUT TURKES
HIMSELF ON THE BALLOT IS UNLIKELY TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT GAINS.
6. ECEVIT WILL COME TO ADANA ON OCT 3, DEMIREL ON OCT 10. WE WILL
REPORT OUR LAST MINUTE IMPRESSIONS FOLLOWING THOSE VISITS.

JONES

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